

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR.
ELIZABETH BALRAJ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Elizabeth Balraj as she retires after 35 years of dedicated public service to the people of Northeast Ohio, including 20 years as Cuyahoga County coroner.

Dr. Balraj began her career in the 1960s, immigrating to the United States to become a physician and surgeon after completing her studies in her native India. She practiced medicine at Akron General Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital in Cleveland before coming to the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office as deputy coroner and pathologist. In 1987, she was appointed Coroner of Cuyahoga County, following the retirement of Coroner Dr. Samuel Gerber, a position she held until her retirement in July of this year.

During her time as Coroner of Cuyahoga County, Dr. Balraj established herself as a very capable and energetic leader. She worked very hard with local law enforcement officials to help solve murder cases and was there to console the many people who lost loved ones. Additionally, she advanced the cause of women in the medical field by blazing the trail for women to become more involved in science and medicine, as well as the law enforcement field.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Dr. Elizabeth Balraj or her service to Cuyahoga County, her passion for her work, and her kindness to the many families and individuals of Cuyahoga County over the last 35 years.

AFFIRMATION OF THE UNITED
STATES RECORD ON THE ARME-
NIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I have noted in recent days that some of my colleagues have asked to have their names removed from the list of those cosponsoring House Resolution 106. I have not asked to be removed as a cosponsor because I still strongly support the goals of the Resolution, and believe that it is important to acknowledge the atrocities committed against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire do indeed constitute genocide.

While I support the message of the Resolution, I have recently signed a letter asking that it not be brought to the House floor at this time. While the Armenian genocide is a tragic part of history, in the present there are Amer-

ican soldiers fighting and dying in Iraq. Regretably, Turkey has responded to this Resolution with threats that would endanger the safety of those soldiers and make it more difficult for us to quickly and safely bring our troops home.

I know that my friends in the Armenian community have worked very hard over the years on behalf of this Resolution, and I know that they will be disappointed if its passage is delayed. However, they will be no more disappointed than I am about the fact that more than four years after the President launched his misguided war in Iraq, our troops are still in harm's way.

HONORING CIRCUIT RIDER
PRODUCTIONS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Circuit Rider Productions, a non-profit corporation that has harmonized the work of providing human services for at-risk youth with a mission to help restore and sustain Sonoma County's ecological resources. The work done by Circuit Rider Productions has been of immense value to the community of northern Sonoma County.

Circuit Rider Productions was founded in 1976 by Fred Beeman and Ed Kissam with the mission to reach out to people and places in need of help. The organization's original project took a Federal grant and taught young people to use video production technology and to film a documentary about a project which employed low-income youth to plant trees. The fusion of job training, youth services, and environmental restoration formed the core of services that Circuit Rider Productions has continued to offer in the 30 years since.

The organization is currently comprised of two divisions: Resources and Programs for Youth Family and Community; and the Center for Ecological Restoration and Stewardship. The first set of programs work with youth in northern Sonoma County on issues such as drug and alcohol abuse and gang activity. Through no-cost community counseling, programs in schools, and court referrals, young people who are at risk for substance abuse or involvement with gang activities receive help from the various Circuit Rider programs focusing on life and communication skills, self-confidence building, and responsible decision making.

The Center for Ecological Restoration and Stewardship focuses on providing landowners and communities with the information they need to make sound decisions about watersheds. Through an analysis program and ecological restoration services, the organization can provide the training necessary to help get these projects off the ground. With a particular emphasis on controlling invasive species and restoring native species, Circuit Rider has

been a leader in responsible environmental restoration.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that we congratulate Circuit Ride Productions for the many wonderful contributions this organization has made to our community. By taking a comprehensive approach to working with at-risk youth, and providing more than abstract job training, they have bettered the lives of countless young people while providing important and scientifically sound guidance in ecological restoration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROCE-
DURAL FAIRNESS FOR SEP-
TEMBER 11TH VICTIMS ACT

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of nine of my colleagues to introduce the Procedural Fairness for September 11th Victims Act. This bipartisan legislation is an identical companion to a bill introduced by Senator BIDEN and passed by the Senate earlier this month.

We offer this legislation in response to a shortcoming in the Federal rules of civil procedure that has the unintended consequence of restricting witnesses from appearing in civil lawsuits involving September 11th claims.

Six years ago, Americans came together to support one another in a time of national crisis. The attacks on September 11, 2001 affected all of us, in all walks of life and in every State across the country. However, for those who were injured or lost loved ones on September 11th, geography is playing a major role in their ability to seek compensation.

Shortly after September 11th, Congress mandated that victims and their families who opted out of the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund and chose to pursue civil suits could only do so in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. According to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, parties can only subpoena testimony and documents within 100 miles of that district. As a result, many victims and their families cannot bring the witnesses or documents they need for their cases.

In response, the Procedural Fairness for September 11th Victims Act will amend the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act to provide for nation-wide subpoena power to all parties involved—victims, their families and the defendants—when litigating 9/11 claims.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues agree that justice requires that the parties to cases arising under the Victims Compensation Fund have access to all the testimony and documents relevant to their claims, regardless of where in the U.S. the witnesses or documents are located. Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor the Procedural Fairness for September 11th Victims Act and call

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.